

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE GAMBLING INDUSTRY****Call for Evidence**

The Select Committee on the Social and Economic Impact of the Gambling Industry was appointed by the House of Lords on 13 June 2019 to consider this. It has to report by 31 March 2020.

The Committee will be including in its remit the social and economic impact of the Gambling Act 2005 and related legislation.

**This is a public call for written evidence to be submitted to the Committee.**

**The Committee is happy to receive submissions on any issues related to the subject of the inquiry, but would particularly welcome submissions on the questions listed below. You need not address every question.**

Diversity comes in many forms, and hearing a range of different perspectives means that Committees are better informed and can more effectively scrutinise public policy and legislation. Committees can undertake their role most effectively when they hear from a wide range of individuals, sectors or groups in society. We encourage anyone with experience of or expertise in an issue we are investigating to share their views with the Committee, with the full knowledge that their views have value and are welcome. If you think someone you know would have views to contribute, please do pass this on to them.

Instructions on how to submit evidence are set out at the end.

If you have any queries please email the staff of the Committee at [hlgamblingindustry@parliament.uk](mailto:hlgamblingindustry@parliament.uk) or phone 020 7219 4384.

**The deadline for submissions is Friday 6 September 2019.**

## Questions

### ***The Gambling Act 2005***

1. Are the three primary aims of the Gambling Act 2005 (to prevent gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, to ensure that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way, and to protect children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling) being upheld?
2. What changes, if any, are required to bring the Act up to date with new technology and the latest knowledge about how gambling harm is distributed?
3. Is gambling well regulated, including the licensing regime for both on- and off-shore operations? How successfully do the Gambling Commission, local authorities and others enforce licensing conditions including age verification? What might be learned from comparisons with other regulators and jurisdictions?
4. Should gambling operators have a legal duty of care to their customers?

### ***Social and economic impact***

5. What are the social and economic costs of gambling? These might include costs associated with poor health and hospital inpatient services; welfare and employment costs; the cost of benefit claims; lost tax receipts; housing costs through statutory homelessness applications; and criminal justice costs.
6. What are the social and economic benefits of gambling? How can they be measured and assessed?

### ***Levy***

7. Is the money raised by the levy adequate to meet the current needs for research, education and treatment? How effective is the voluntary levy? Would a mandatory levy or other alternative arrangement be more productive and effective? How should income raised by a levy be spent, and how should the outcome be monitored? What might be learned from international comparisons?

### ***Research***

8. How might we improve the quality and timeliness of research in the UK? What changes, if any, should be made to the current arrangements for funding, commissioning and evaluating research in the UK? What might be learned from international comparisons?
9. If, as the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB)<sup>1</sup> has suggested, there is limited evidence on which to base sound decisions about gambling by children and young people, what steps should be taken to rectify this situation?

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<sup>1</sup> Now called the Advisory Board for Safer Gambling.

## **Education**

10. Is enough being done to provide effective public education about gambling? If not, what more should be done?

## **Treatment**

11. Are the services available for the treatment and support of people at risk of being harmed by gambling sufficient and effective? How might they be improved? What steps might be taken to improve the uptake of treatment, particularly among groups who are most likely to experience harm from gambling and least likely to seek help?
12. What steps should be taken better to understand any link between suicide and gambling?

## **Advertising**

13. The RGSB has said that by not taking action to limit the exposure of young people to gambling advertising “we are in danger of inadvertently conducting an uncontrolled social experiment on today’s youth, the outcome of which is uncertain but could be significant.”<sup>2</sup> Do you agree? How should we make decisions about the regulation of gambling advertising? What might be learned from international comparisons?

## **Gambling and sport**

14. Gambling is becoming an integral part of a growing number of sports, with increasingly close relationships between operators and sports clubs, leagues and broadcasters. What are the risks attached to this?

## **Gambling by young people and children**

15. How are new forms of technology, including social media, affecting children’s experiences of gambling? How are these experiences affecting gambling behaviour now, and how might they affect behaviour in the future?
16. The legal availability of certain forms of commercial gambling to under-18s in Great Britain is unusual by international standards and has been described as an ‘historical accident’.<sup>3</sup> Should young people between 16 and 18 be able to purchase National Lottery products, including draw-based games, scratch cards and online instant wins?
17. Should children be allowed to play Category D games machines (which include fruit machines, pushers and cranes)?

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/PDF/RGSB-Gambling-and-children-and-young-people-2018.pdf>, p.12.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/PDF/RGSB-Gambling-and-children-and-young-people-2018.pdf>, p2.

## **Lotteries**

18. The restrictions on society lotteries were relaxed by the Gambling Act 2005, and there is concern that some of them are effectively being taken over by larger commercial lotteries. Is this concern well founded? If so, what should be done?
19. Should changes be made to the statutory regime governing the National Lottery, to bring it into line with the regime governing operators of other lotteries?

## How to submit evidence

Written evidence should be submitted online using the written submission form available at <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/gambling-committee/> If you do not have access to a computer you may submit a paper copy to:

Clerk to the Select Committee on the Social and Economic Impact of the Gambling Industry  
Committee Office, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW

## **The deadline for submission of written evidence is Friday 6 September 2019.**

Short, concise submissions are preferred. Submissions longer than 6 pages should include a one-page summary. Paragraphs should be numbered. Submissions should be dated, with a note of the author's name, and of whether the author is acting in an individual or corporate capacity. Submissions with a university or college address should make clear whether they are submitted in an individual capacity or on behalf the university or college. All submissions made through the written submission form will be acknowledged automatically by email.

Submissions become the property of the Committee which will decide whether to accept them as evidence. Evidence may be published by the Committee at any stage. It will normally appear on the Committee's website and will be deposited in the Parliamentary Archives. Once you have received acknowledgement that your submission has been accepted as evidence, you may publicise or publish it yourself, but in doing so you must indicate that it was prepared for the Committee. If you publish your evidence separately, you should be aware that you will be legally responsible for its content.

In certain circumstances the Committee may be prepared to accept submissions but not to publish them, in whole or in part. If you would like to submit evidence on this basis you should first discuss this with the Clerk to the Committee.

**You should be careful not to comment on individual cases currently before a court of law, or matters in respect of which court proceedings are imminent.** If you anticipate such issues arising, you should discuss with the Clerk to the Committee how this might affect your submission.

Personal contact details supplied to the Committee will be removed from submissions before publication but will be retained by the Committee staff for specific purposes relating to the Committee's work, such as seeking additional information.

Certain individuals and organisations may be invited to appear in person before the Committee to give oral evidence. Oral evidence is usually given in public at Westminster and broadcast in video and online. Persons invited to give oral evidence will be notified separately of the procedure to be followed and the topics likely to be discussed.

Substantive communications to the Committee about the inquiry should be addressed to the Clerk, whether or not they are intended to constitute formal evidence to the Committee.

This is a public call for evidence. Please bring it to the attention of other groups and individuals who may not have received a copy direct.

You can follow the progress of the inquiry at <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/gambling-committee/>

1 July 2019